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16 May 1991

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First regular session of 1991
13-31 May and 17-21 June 1991
SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE
Agenda item 6

WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

Ghana*: draft resolution

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 40/100 of 13 December 1985 and 45/87 of 14 December 1990 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/52 of 28 May 1987 and 1989/72 of 24 May 1989,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/56 of 8 December 1989, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to it in 1991, through the Commission for Social Development and the Council,

Bearing in mind the primary importance of a well-balanced report on the world social situation for increasing international awareness of the efforts being made towards achieving the goals of social progress and better standards of living, established in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as of the obstacles to further progress,

Deeply concerned by the continued worsening of the economic situation in many developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, as evidenced by the significant decline in living conditions, the persistence and increase of widespread poverty in a large number of those countries and the decline of their main social and economic indicators,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and in accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Desirous that the pace of development in the developing countries be accelerated substantially in order to enable those countries to achieve their social objectives, especially those of meeting the basic need for food, housing, education, employment and health care and winning the struggle against the scourges that endanger the health and well-being of their populations,

Recognizing that progress in the social and economic fields constitutes an essential priority for the United Nations and the international community, as well as a prerequisite for international development and peace,

Believing that there is a need for greater effort by the United Nations system to study and disseminate accurate and balanced data and material on the existing world social situation, particularly with regard to emerging trends and institutional structures that impact on social development,

Having considered the interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation, 1/

Mindful of the need to reflect objectively on the sensitivity and importance of the social problems of developing countries,

1. Notes with concern that the interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation did not adequately focus on the continuing deterioration of the economic and social situation that constitutes the primary tendency in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;

2. Also notes with concern that the interim report did not sufficiently take into account the concerns and guidelines specified in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72;

3. Reaffirms the request set forth in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72 that in preparing the next report on the world social situation, the Secretary-General give high priority to an analysis of the main indicators of social progress and standards of living and make a comprehensive analysis of the main causes and circumstances that explain negative trends in those indicators, and reaffirms also that chapters devoted to the study of specific social problems must be related to global economic and social situations, taking into account both national and international conditions;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to reorient the draft framework for the 1993 report on the world social situation so that the draft framework is in consonance with the requests set forth in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72 and can be considered by the Council at its regular session of 1992;

1/ A/46/56-E/1991/6.

5. Also requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the 1993 report, to take into account the intrinsic relationship between economic growth and social development and to analyse in depth the economic problems of the developing countries and the impact of those problems on the world social situation;

6. Recommends that prior to the preparation of the 1993 report an inter-agency meeting be convened to ensure that an integrated interdisciplinary focus is provided to serve as a source of data for the report;

7. Invites all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in the preparation of the 1993 report by making available all relevant information pertaining to their respective areas of competence.

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Agenda item 7

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Austria: draft decision

In-depth consideration of major social policy themes by the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council takes note of Commission for Social Development resolution 32/3 1/ and decides to consider the recommendations contained in that resolution at its organizational session for 1992.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 6 (E/1991/26), chap. I, sect. D.

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Agenda item 7

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Australia*, Cuba*, France and Italy: draft resolution

Crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice under Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950, in particular the organization of United Nations quinquennial congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders,

Bearing in mind the important role of the United Nations in assisting Member States to formulate more effective strategies and policies to combat crime and humanize criminal justice systems,

Concerned about the escalation of crime in all its forms, particularly in its new dimensions and transitional forms, and the violence in many parts of the world, which threatens the international community, impinges on the enjoyment of basic human rights and has a negative impact on the development process,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Recognizing the urgent need for an adequate global response to those crimes that transcend national boundaries or for any other reasons require coordinated action between States, including strengthened international mechanisms to provide criminal justice personnel with ready access to information, facilitate the exchange of technical know-how, further promote international cooperation in this field and ensure adequate coordination for practical action programmes,

Determined to ensure the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders 1/ and to make steady progress in their practical application,

Noting with concern the continuing increase in the workload of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, particularly in relation to the mandates entrusted to it by the Eighth Congress and by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/108 of 14 December 1990, the need to prioritize its programme and the need to confine its activities to the areas where a positive contribution can be made through international action,

Recalling its resolution 1990/27 of 24 May 1990 in which, inter alia, the General Assembly was invited to take appropriate measures to ensure the timely implementation and proper follow-up of the recommendations of the Eighth Congress,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/121 of 14 December 1990 in which, inter alia, the General Assembly welcomed the instruments and resolutions adopted by the Eighth Congress 2/ and requested the Secretary-General to review the resources required to enable the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with the new mandates,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice; 3/

2. Welcomes the fruitful and productive results of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and urges Governments to ensure the implementation of its conclusions and recommendations;

1/ Report of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba, 27 August-7 September 1990 (A/CONF.144/28), chap. I.

2/ Ibid.

3/ E/1991/19.

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to pay particular attention to the operational aspects of the resolutions of the Eighth Congress in order to assist interested countries in promoting human resources development, reinforcing their national machinery, undertaking joint training activities and executing pilot and demonstration projects, and invites the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat and other relevant agencies to consider giving more support to these endeavours;

4. Stresses the importance of General Assembly resolution 45/108 on the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice in determining mechanisms for the more efficient focusing of the programme on those activities where the United Nations can make a positive contribution to the control of crime and requests the Secretary-General to assist in the proper organization of the intergovernmental working group and the ministerial summit meeting on the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme, as called for in that resolution;

5. Takes note with appreciation of the offer of the Government of France to host the ministerial summit meeting in the second half of 1991;

6. Recommends that adequate provision be made for the participation of the representatives of the least developed countries who are members of the intergovernmental working group, as well as to ensure their participation at the ministerial summit meeting;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to use his best endeavours to provide resources within the existing level of the regular budget, as required, for public information activities related to the preparation and servicing of these two meetings;

8. Invites Governments to be actively involved and to provide their support to ensure the success of the ministerial summit meeting;

9. Welcomes the initiative of the Government of Canada to establish in Canada a new international centre for criminal law reform and criminal justice policy as an institute affiliated with the United Nations, and invites the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement with the aforesaid Government as appropriate;

10. Requests the General Assembly to give priority attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the ministerial summit meeting, with a view to taking appropriate action thereon, leading to the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme in the light of this review;

11. Recommends that the General Assembly consider requesting the Secretary-General to enter into a commitment for the upgrading of the status of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as called for in numerous General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the most recent of which being Assembly resolution 45/108, in a way commensurate with its increased responsibilities and required professional expertise;

12. Recommends also that the General Assembly give priority attention, at its substantive session of 1992, to the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, 4/ in particular to its recommendations on the implications of the resolutions of the Eighth Congress for the programme of the United Nations system, as called for in General Assembly resolution 45/121, and recommends that the report be considered in 1992 under the sub-item "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 10 (E/1990/31).

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Agenda item 7

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Australia*, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic*, Canada, Cuba*, France, Italy and New Zealand: revised draft resolution

Crime prevention and criminal justice

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware of the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice under Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Bearing in mind the important role of the United Nations in assisting Member States to formulate more effective strategies and policies to combat crime and humanize criminal justice systems,

Concerned about the escalation of crime in all its forms, particularly in its new dimensions and transitional forms, and the violence in many parts of the world, which threatens the international community, impinges on the enjoyment of basic human rights and has a negative impact on the development process,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Recognizing the urgent need for an adequate global response to those crimes that transcend national boundaries or for any other reasons require coordinated action between States, including strengthened international mechanisms to provide criminal justice personnel with ready access to information, facilitate the exchange of technical know-how, further promote international cooperation in this field and ensure adequate coordination for practical action programmes,

Determined to ensure the continued focus on the conclusions and recommendations of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders 1/ and to make steady progress in their practical application,

Noting with concern the continuing increase in the workload of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, particularly in relation to the mandates entrusted to it by the Eighth Congress and by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/108 of 14 December 1990, the need to prioritize its programme and the need to confine its activities to the areas where a positive contribution can be made through international action,

Recalling its resolution 1990/27 of 24 May 1990 concerning, inter alia, the timely implementation and proper follow-up of the recommendations of the Eighth Congress,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/121 of 14 December 1990 in which the Assembly and requested the Secretary-General to review the resources required to enable the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with the new mandates,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice; 2/

2. Welcomes the successful results of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and urges Governments to ensure the appropriate implementation of its conclusions and recommendations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to pay particular attention to the operational aspects of the resolutions of the Eighth Congress in order to assist interested countries in promoting human

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1/ Report of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990 (A/CONF.144/28), chap. I.

2/ E/1991/19.

resources development, reinforcing their national machinery, undertaking joint training activities and executing pilot and demonstration projects, and invites the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat and other relevant agencies to consider giving more support to these endeavours;

4. Stresses the importance of General Assembly resolution 45/108 on the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice in determining mechanisms for the more efficient focusing of the programme on those activities where the United Nations can make a positive contribution to the control of crime and requests the Secretary-General to assist in the proper organization of the intergovernmental working group and the ministerial summit meeting on the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme, as called for in that resolution;

5. Takes note with appreciation of the offer of the Government of France to host the ministerial summit meeting in the second half of 1991;

6. Recommends that adequate provision be made for the participation of the representatives of the least developed countries who are members of the intergovernmental working group, as well as to ensure their participation at the ministerial summit meeting;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to use his best endeavours to provide resources within the existing level of the regular budget, as required, for public information activities related to the preparation and servicing of these two meetings;

8. Invites Governments to be actively involved and to provide their support to ensure the success of the ministerial summit meeting;

9. Welcomes the initiative of the Government of Canada to establish in Canada a new international centre for criminal law reform and criminal justice policy as an institute affiliated with the United Nations, and invites the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement with the aforesaid Government as appropriate;

10. Requests the General Assembly to give priority attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the ministerial summit meeting, with a view to taking appropriate action thereon, leading to the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme;

11. Recommends that the General Assembly, in the light of this review, consider requesting the Secretary-General to enter into a commitment for the upgrading of the status of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as called for in numerous General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the most recent of which being Assembly resolution 45/108, in a way commensurate with its increased responsibilities and required professional expertise;

12. Decides to give priority attention at its substantive session in 1992 to crime prevention and criminal justice under the sub-item "Crime prevention and criminal justice".

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13-31 May and 17-21 June 1991
Agenda item 9

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica*, Cuba*, Dominican Republic*, Ecuador, Egypt*, El Salvador*, Greece*, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and Venzuela*: draft resolution

International Research and Tra ing Institute for the Advancement of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1990/16 of 24 May 1990, in which it took note of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its tenth session, 1/

Having considered the report of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on its eleventh session, 2/

Convinced of the important impact of the work of the Institute on research, training and information on questions related to women and development, an essential prerequisite for bringing about changes in development that benefit women and society,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ E/1990/34.

2/ E/1991/21.

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its eleventh session and the decisions contained therein; 2/

2. Commends the efforts of the Institute to integrate its research and training activities into the mainstream of development at the regional and national levels;

3. Reaffirms the catalytic role of the Institute in elaborating methodologies for carrying out research, training and information activities in new areas of interest affecting women and development;

4. Takes note with appreciation of the fact that the Institute is continuing to consider ways to strengthen its cooperation with the regional commissions and their national coordination centres, thus ensuring its extension to the regional and national levels;

5. Renews its appeal to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other potential donors to continue contributing and, to the extent possible, to increase their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus ensuring the continuity and expansion of the Institute's work;

6. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States that have contributed to the Trust Fund for the Institute, which has enabled it to carry out its mandate to meet new challenges and take account of new trends in the field of research, training and information related to women and development;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint, as soon as possible, the Director of the Institute so that she may take up her duties within the framework of the mandate as established by the statutes of the Institute.

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Agenda item 9

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Australia*, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark*, Finland, France, Germany, Greece*, Iceland*, Indonesia, Ireland*, Italy, Mexico, Norway*, Philippines*, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

Elimination and discrimination against women in accordance with the aims of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/124 of 14 December 1990 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/17 of 24 May 1990,

Noting resolutions 35/3 and 35/1 of 8 March 1991, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, 1/

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 8 (E/1991/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Noting that General Assembly resolution 45/124 strongly supported the view of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority within existing resources to strengthening technical and substantive support for the Committee,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its session, 2/

Noting that the Committee agreed, in examining reports, to take due account of the different cultural and socio-economic systems of States parties to the Convention,

Noting with satisfaction the establishment of the practice of holding a pre-sessional working group three to five days prior to the Committee session,

Convinced that the close relationship between the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, implies that the secretariats of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child should work closely together,

Welcoming the general recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its tenth session,

Noting with appreciation the South Pacific regional seminar on the Convention held in Raratonga, Cook Island, in March 1991, which recommended that all Pacific Island States accede to the Convention,

Aware that the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women will occur on 3 September 1991,

1. Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its tenth session;

2. Welcomes the ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by an increasing number of Member States;

3. Urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

4. Also urges the Secretary-General to strengthen the provision of training in the implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and

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2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38).

interregional levels, especially in assisting States parties to meet their reporting obligations;

5. Further urges States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide training opportunities on a regular basis for persons preparing periodic reports of States parties to the Convention;

6. Welcomes the initiatives taken to provide regional training courses on the preparation and drafting of reports of States parties for government officials and training and information seminars for States considering acceding to the Convention, and urges the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations to support such initiatives;

7. Recommends that strengthening of substantive and technical support to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women be given a priority in the programme budget of work of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 1992-1993;

8. Invites the international community to mark in an appropriate manner the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention;

9. Invites also States parties to the Convention to make every possible effort to submit their initial implementation reports, as well as their second and subsequent periodic reports, in accordance with article 18 of the Convention and the guidelines provided by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and to cooperate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide, facilitate and encourage, within existing resources, the dissemination of public information relating to the Committee, its recommendations, the Convention and the concept of legal literacy, taking into account the Committee's own recommendations to this end;

11. Recommends a close relationship between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other United Nations human rights bodies and between the relevant secretariats of those Committees.

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Agenda items 7 and 9

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Cameroon, Chile, China, Costa Rica*, Dominican Republic*, El Salvador*, Philippines*, Poland*, Sweden and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution

Strengthening and rationalizing the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the growing interest of Member States in the activities of the United Nations in the social and related fields and for the advancement of women,

Reiterating the various requests of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Council that issues in the social and related fields receive greater attention as well as resources,

Recalling section IV of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to propose a comprehensive restructuring of United Nations entities in Vienna with a view to a speedy implementation of the expressed wish of the General Assembly to strengthen the United Nations Office at Vienna,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Requests the Secretary-General to make specific recommendations in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to strengthen and rationalize the resources of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in order to enable it better to fulfil its mandates and carry out its activities in the social and related fields and for the advancement of women.

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Agenda item 6

WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

Australia*, Canada, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan and New Zealand: draft resolution

Humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Expressing deep concern about the plight of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons,

Aware that the majority of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons are women, the elderly and children, who are particularly vulnerable to hardship,

Acknowledging the fact that coping with the enormous needs of Iraqi refugees is far beyond the capacities of host countries,

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation in responding to the emergency needs of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons and the alleviation of human suffering,

Taking note of the heavy burden placed on the people and Governments of host countries,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1. Commends the efforts of the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey in providing Iraqi refugees with shelter, protection, food, health care and other humanitarian services, and welcomes the cooperation extended by host countries to the humanitarian agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

2. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered by States, various organizations of the United Nations system and other governmental and non-governmental organizations to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons;

3. Welcomes with appreciation the initiatives of the Secretary-General in alleviating the human suffering of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons, including the designation of an Executive Delegate for the United Nations Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Iraq/Iran and Iraq/Turkey Border Areas;

4. Appeals to all States, appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international financial institutions to continue to provide the necessary resources for responding to the enormous needs of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons and recognizes the need to continue and improve further the coordination between host countries, the humanitarian agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

5. Calls upon all States and the United Nations system to facilitate the safe and honourable return of Iraqi refugees and displaced persons to their homes;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary financial and material assistance;

7. Requests the Executive Delegate of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Iraq/Iran and Iraq/Turkey Border Area to continue coordination with the appropriate specialized agencies in order to ensure the continuation of and to consolidate essential services to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.